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ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.

EIGHTH EDITION.

THE
ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA,
OR
DICTIONARY
OF
ARTS, SCIENCES, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.
EIGHTH EDITION.

WITH EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS;
AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

INDEX.

ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, EDINBURGH.

MDCCCLX.

[The Proprietors of this Work give notice that they reserve the right of Translating it.]

NEILL AND CO., PRINTERS, EDINBURGH.

GENERAL INDEX.

THE following Index contains a full and complete enumeration of the different subjects treated of in the Twenty-one volumes of this Work. It is intended not merely to facilitate reference to the various Articles and Treatises, but to serve the far more important purpose of bringing into one view the varied and scattered information not indicated by respective heads or titles. This is rendered the more desirable, as the plan of the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA* includes so many general treatises and systems, embracing an immense number of subordinate and collateral topics to which the general title affords no clue. The names printed in capital letters indicate the subjects to which separate articles are assigned, and the first reference is to the volume and page where each article occurs. Immediately following this are the references to the same subject occurring throughout the entire Work, either of a general nature, or specifying the particular light in which it is regarded. These references are generally arranged according to their importance, or the fulness of information they afford; occasionally, however, it was thought expedient to follow the order of sequence in the volumes. The entries in the Index not distinguished by capital letters do not form separate articles, but indicate particular subjects occurring under other general heads; they include, for example, all the genera mentioned in the different articles on Natural History, English names of animals and plants, authors and books referred to, names of places, &c.

It was only in this way that the Index could be rendered an adequate representative of the contents of the Work; and while it necessarily gave to

it a great degree of extension, it obviously affords valuable facilities for finding information on any particular subject. A reader, for instance, desirous of learning as much as possible about Scotland and Scottish affairs, will not only find, under the head SCOTLAND, a general view of the history and statistics of the country, but be referred by the Index to many other parts of the Work (such as BRITAIN, FISHERIES, ROADS, &c.), where a great variety of additional particulars are supplied. Again, as the Sciences are discussed in the Encyclopædia under their general names, the principal details embraced by them are given under such heads as, ANATOMY, CHEMISTRY, ENTOMOLOGY, METAPHYSICS, METEOROLOGY, &c. By consulting the Index, therefore, the student will be saved the trouble of looking through a long treatise in search of information upon particular points; and those, again, who are in quest of information which they were not aware was to be found under such heads, may, in the same way, be enabled to extend their knowledge. The Indexes which follow certain articles (such as those on Natural History, &c.), are here incorporated under one continuous alphabetical arrangement.

It is necessary to observe, that, with the proper character of an Index, that of a Table of Contents is not here combined. For example, under the head SCOTLAND in the Index, no reference is made to the contents of the article so headed in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA; it being presumed that a person making researches about Scotland will commence ascertaining its contents by turning over the pages of that article. But the Index points out other details referring to Scotland which occur under the various heads of AGRICULTURE, BANKS, COAL, FISHERIES, IRON, LIBRARIES, and so forth.

When an article in the Index contains many references to countries and towns, the names of the latter are frequently arranged alphabetically, in the manner exemplified in AGRICULTURE, ARMY, EDUCATION, &c. The adoption of this plan will save time and trouble to persons consulting the Index. The reference to maps is always given last; but it was thought unnecessary to refer to the plates generally, as the subjects of them are always sufficiently indicated in the articles which they are meant to illustrate.

In such a work as the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*, a summary and digest of its contents like the present is more than usually necessary. Its extent has rendered the compilation a task of much labour. In such an immense number of references, most of them expressed in figures, it is scarcely to be expected that no inaccuracies will occur, but great care has been taken to avoid them, and to render the Index a faithful and complete representation and exponent of the contents of the entire Work. It must be obvious that, in a publication of such extent and variety of subjects, embracing, as it does, the whole field of human knowledge, everything calculated to give ready access to its stores of information, with increased ease of consultation, is of the utmost importance to the practical usefulness of the Work.

JAMES DUNCAN.

OLD MANSE, DENHOLM, *April* 1861.

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